

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 07120 171542Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 OES-07 IO-13
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEAE-00
ERDE-00 EA-09 /113 W
-----171705Z 041388 /47

P R 171309Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3454
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 7120

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG IN US MNUC
SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S REMARKS ON
NUCLEAR POLICY

REF: NEW DELHI 7039

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER'S MAY 16 PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH DEAL WITH
NUCLEAR MATTERS. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT LANGUAGE NOT
REPORTED REFTEL IS THAT DEALING WITH NUCLEAR
EXPLOSIONS. ASKED WHETHER NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WOULD BE
CONDUCTED, THE PRIME MINISTER ANSWERED: "IF AN EXPLOSION
IS NECESSARY FOR THAT PURPOSE (NUCLEAR ENERGY), WE WILL
CERTAINLY DO IT." HE STRESSED THAT SUCH TESTS WOULD BE
CONDUCTED OPENLY.

2. BEGIN EXCERPTS:

QUESTION: I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WILL BE GOVERNMENT'S
NUCLEAR POLICY?

PRIME MINISTER: I HAVE DECLARED IT FROM THE HOUSE-TOPS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 07120 171542Z

ON THE VERY FIRST DAY, SECOND DAY, THIRD DAY.
NOW, I AM NOT GOING TO REPEAT IT FOR YOUR BENEFIT,
I AM SORRY.

QUESTION: THANK YOU, SIR. WHEN WE SAY THAT WE WILL
NOT DEFEND A POTENTIAL NUCLEAR AGGRESSOR WITH NOTHING
LIKE AN ATOM BOMB, ARE WE NOT INVITING NATIONAL

DISASTER, WHICH WILL RESULT IN KILLING OF THE WHOLE NATION.
WOULD YOU NOT ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE TO IT?

PRIME MINISTER: I KNOW MY RESPONSIBILITY MORE THAN YOU.
PLEASE GRANT THAT MUCH. LET ME TELL YOU THAT ATOMIC WEAPONS
ARE NO GOOD FOR DEFENCE AT ALL. AT ANY TIME THEY ARE
MEANT ONLY FOR DESTRUCTION. THEY CANT EVEN WIN A WAR
AND THEREFORE ATOMIC WEAPONS HAVE NO USE IN
DEFENCE. IT IS THE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONERY AND THE
CONVENTIONAL ARMS WHICH ONLY ARE ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, AND
THE COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE. THESE ARE TWO THINGS WHICH ARE
REQUIRED EVEN AGAINST ATOMIC BOMBS. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT WE
BELIEVE THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE GOING TO
DESTROY THE WORLD. THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR THE
LAST 30 YEARS AND THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS MUST DISAPPEAR FROM THE
EARTH. IF WE GO ON SAYING THAT TO EVERYBODY, SHOULD WE NOW
TAKE TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS? HOW WILL WE BE HELPING THE PROCESS?
IF WE REMAIN FIRM ABOUT IT, WE CAN HELP IN THE PROCESS OF
REMOVING NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM THE WORLD AND THAT IS THE
TASK WE ARE ENGAGED IN. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THIS
COUNTRY IS NO DANGER TO THEM. BE ASSURED
ABOUT IT. BUT YOU WOULD NOT TAKE MY ASSURANCE. A
PERSON IS AFRAID, IT IS NOT LOGIC. THEREFORE, I CANNOT BY
ANY LOGIC REMOVE IT. BUT I WILL HELP YOU REMOVE, BUT I HOPE
YOU WILL REMOVE IT.

QUESTION: WILL YOU CONTINUE TO USE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS?

PRIME MINISTER: NUCLEAR ENERGY, YOU MEAN.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 07120 171542Z

QUESTION: NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

PRIME MINISTER: IF AN EXPLOSION IS NECESSARY FOR THAT
PURPOSE, WE WILL CERTAINLY DO IT. BUT WE WILL NOT DO IT
IN HIDE AND SEEK MANNER. WE WILL TELL THE PEOPLE WE
ARE DOING IT. LET THEM COME AND WITNESS IT AND THE
USE WILL BE OPEN TO OTHER PEOPLE ALSO EQUALLY.

QUESTION: SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION SIR.
CARTER ADMINISTRATION RESUMED SUPPLY OF FUEL. THEY HAVE
LAID DOWN CERTAIN CONDITIONS LIKE INSPECTION OF OUR....

PRIME MINISTER: I HAVE NOT SEEN THEM.

QUESTION: THIS MORNING'S NEWS.

PRIME MINISTER: MAY BE NEWS LIKE OTHER NEWS. I HAVE
RECEIVED TWO WARM LETTERS FROM HIM. THERE IS NO

MENTION OF THIS.

QUESTION: YOU SAID CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS COULD
PROTECT THE COUNTRY. HOW DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE POSSIBLE
IN A WAR WITH CHINA A NUCLEAR POWER AND PAKISTAN FAST
BECOMING ONE?

PRIME MINISTER: ARE YOU EXPERT IN DEFENCE?

QUESTION: I AM ASKING YOU SIR.

PRIME MINISTER: I HAVE STUDIED ABOUT IT TO SOME
EXTENT. SO PLEASE TAKE MY WORD. THESE ARE NOT
THINGS WHICH COULD BE DISCLOSED.SCHNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, POLICIES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE07120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770175-0235
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770549/aaaabpvg.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83793d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NEW DELHI 7039
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2487136
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S REMARKS ON NUCLEAR POLICY
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, IN, US, (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83793d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009